Amendment and Response
Applicant: Ivan H. Bekkers
Serial No.: 10/624,054
Filed: July 21, 2003
Docket No.: O320.101.102
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING FLIGHT INFORMATION

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 9 and 10.

Please add claim 33.

Please amend claims 6, 15, 19, 25, and 27-29 as follows:

1.   (Original) A flight information system comprising:

a collection system including:

a collector for receiving flight information messages in a plurality of formats, and

a translator for converting flight information messages in the plurality of formats

received by the data collector into flight information in a common format; and

a distribution system for selectively sending converted flight information to a customer.

2.   (Original) The flight information system of claim 1, wherein the distribution system

includes a file generator for generating a notification file containing a portion of the flight

information as specified in a customer profile, the distribution system being configured to send

the file generated by the file generator to the customer.

3.   (Original) The flight information system of claim 1, further comprising:

a data storage system having flight information received by the data collector and

converted by the translator stored therein.

4.   (Original) The flight information system of claim 1, further comprising:

a tracking system having a record of flight information received by the data collector.

5.   (Original) The flight information system of claim 1, further comprising:

an error system for storing a record of errors detected in flight information received and

for processing the detected errors.

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6.   (Currently Amended) A collection system for collecting flight information from a plurality of suppliers, the collection system comprising:

a collector for receiving flight information message in a plurality of formats;

a translator for converting flight information messages in the plurality of formats received by the data collector into flight information in a common format; and

an authentication system for verifying flight information received by the collector was received from a valid supplier based upon a supplier profile, wherein the supplier profile designates at least one acceptable format of flight information messages received from a corresponding supplier.

7.   (Original) The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collector includes a push information collector configured to receive flight information messages from the plurality of suppliers.

8.   (Original) The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collector includes a pull information collector configured to periodically request and receive flight information messages from the plurality of suppliers.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Original) The collection system of claim 6, further comprising:

a validation system for evaluating the syntax of the flight information messages received by the collector.

12.   (Original) The collection system of claim 6, further comprising:

a validation system for evaluating the content of the flight information messages received by the data collector.

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13.   (Original) The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collection system is adapted to update a storage system with flight information received by the collector.

14.   (Original) The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collection system is adapted to record flight information received to a transaction log.

15.   (Currently Amended) A distribution system for distributing flight information to a plurality of customers, the distribution system comprising:

a plurality of customer profiles, each customer profile storing a list of flight information requested by one of the plurality of customers and specifying a file format for receiving notification files from the distribution system;

a file generator for generating a notification file of flight information for each of the plurality of customers based upon the customer profile corresponding to each of the plurality of customers, wherein each notification file is generated in the specified file format in the customer profile corresponding to each of the plurality of customers; and

a data distributor for selectively sending the notification files generated to the plurality of customers.

16.   (Original) The distribution system of claim 15, wherein the file generator is configured to access flight information by accessing a data storage system which stores flight information.

17.   (Original) The distribution system of claim 15, wherein the plurality of customer profiles includes at least one designated file format for each of the plurality of customers.

18.   (Original) The distribution system of claim 17, wherein the file generator is configured to generate the file for each of the plurality of customers in one of the respective file format included in the plurality of customer profiles.

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19.   (Currently Amended) A method of collecting flight information from a plurality of suppliers, the method comprising:

receiving flight information messages in a plurality of formats from the plurality of suppliers, the plurality of suppliers including at least two of an airline, a global distribution system, an air traffic control system, and a schedule mainframe; and

translating the flight information messages received in the plurality of formats into a common format;

wherein receiving flight messages is performed by a collector, translating the flight information is performed by a translator, and the collector and the translator each being part of a computerized flight information management system.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

authenticating flight information received based upon a supplier profile which designates at least one acceptable format of flight information message for each of the plurality of suppliers.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

validating flight information received including at least one of validating syntax and validating content of flight information received.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

storing translated flight information in a storage system.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

storing a record of flight information received to a transaction log.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein storing a record of flight information received to a transaction log includes forwarding at least a portion of the transaction log to at least one of a billing system, a market analysis system, and a customer support system.

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25.   (Currently Amended) A method of distributing flight information to a plurality of customers, the method comprising:

providing a customer profile for each of the plurality of customers and storing the customer profile to a database, wherein the customer profile specifies a file format;

identifying a change to flight information stored in a storage system;

generating a notification file for each of a portion of the plurality of customers based upon the change to the flight information and the corresponding customer profiles using a file generator, wherein each notification file is created in the file format specified in the corresponding customer profile; and

selectively sending the notification files generated to the portion of the plurality of customers via a data distributor;

wherein the database, storage system, file generator, and data distributor are each part of a computerized flight information management system.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein providing a customer profile for each of the plurality of customers includes providing a designated format for the notification files for each of the plurality of customers.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein generating a file for eachthe portion of the plurality of customers includes generating the notification file in the format provided in the customer profile.

28.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein selectively sending the notification files generated to the portion of the plurality of customers includes sending the generated notification files to the plurality of customers per the customer profiles.

29.   (Currently Amended) A business method for providing flight information to a customer, the method comprising:

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defining a customer profile including a financial model and a list of flight information requested by the customer under the financial model;

receiving flight information in a plurality of formats from a plurality of suppliers;

translating the flight information received in a plurality of formats to a common format;

<u>discarding duplicative flight information received from the plurality of suppliers;</u>

distributing translated flight information to the customer based upon the customer profile;

tracking flight information distributed; and

billing the customer based upon the financial model and the flight information tracked.

30. (Original) The business method of claim 29, wherein the financial model includes a service level and a price for the service level.

31. (Original) The business method of claim 30, wherein the service level specifies the type and amount of flight information to be distributed to the customer.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for collecting flight information comprising:

receiving flight information in a plurality of formats from a plurality of suppliers <u>including at least two of an airline, a global distribution system, an air traffic control system, and a schedule mainframe</u>;

translating the flight information received in the plurality of formats to a common format; and

storing the flight information in the common format to a data storage system.

33. (New) A flight information system comprising:

a collection system including:

a collector for receiving flight information messages in a plurality of formats from a plurality of suppliers, the plurality of suppliers including at least two of an airline, a global distribution system, an air traffic control system, and a schedule mainframe,

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an authentication system for verifying that the received flight information was received from a valid supplier based upon a supplier profile, wherein the supplier profile designates at least one acceptable format of flight information messages received from a corresponding one of the plurality of suppliers, and

a translator for converting flight information messages in the plurality of formats received by the data collector into flight information in a common format; and

a distribution system for selectively sending converted flight information to a customer based on a customer profile specifying a file format in which the converted flight information is to be sent to the customer.